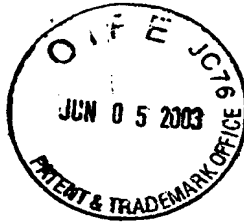


DOCKET NO. 3843-002-27 CONT



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JUN 20 2003
TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: DAVID McCRAY PEELE
SERIAL NO.: 09/735,177
FILING DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2000
FOR: TOBACCO PROCESSING

ART UNIT: 1731
EXAMINER: WALLS, DIONNE

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.312

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Responsive to the Notice of Allowance issued in the above-captioned patent application and pursuant to the provisions of the above-captioned rule, entry of the following amendment is respectfully requested.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claim:

1. (Amended, renumbered from Claim 59) A method for modifying a tobacco curing barn provided with a direct fire heating unit for the purpose of providing conditions suitable for curing tobacco such that resulting cured tobacco obtained from said barn possesses a tobacco-specific nitrosamine content lower than 2 parts per million, the method comprising:
removing the direct fire heating unit from the tobacco barn,